

Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference P04-93	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Form PCT/IPEA/416	
International application No. PCT/JP2004/012141	International filing date (day/month/year) 18.08.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 18.08.2003
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC G06F3/033		
Applicant GUNZE LIMITED		

1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 6 sheets, including this cover sheet.

3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:

a. ☐ (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of _____ sheets, as follows:

☐ sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).

☐ sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.

b. ☐ (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).

4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. I	Basis of the report
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. II	Priority
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VI	Certain documents cited
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

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International application No.

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Box No. I

Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
- ☐ publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
- ☐ international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:
- ☒ the international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☐ the description:
- pages _____ as originally filed/furnished
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☐ the claims:
- nos. _____ as originally filed/furnished
- nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
- nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☐ the drawings:
- sheets _____ as originally filed/furnished
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____
4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

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Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>1-6</u>	YES
	Claims _____	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims <u>3</u>	YES
	Claims <u>1, 2, 4-6</u>	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-6</u>	YES
	Claims _____	NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Document 1: JP 9-50731 A (Gunze Ltd.), 18 February 1997, paragraphs [0013] to [0025] and [0042], and fig. 1 and 2 (Family: none)

Document 2: JP 56-12855 Y2 (Sharp Corp.), 25 March 1981, column 1, line 37 to column 2, line 22 and fig. 3 (Family: none)

Document 3: Microfilm of the specification and drawings annexed to the request of Japanese Utility Model Application No. 163095/1980 (Laid-open No. 84702/1982) (NEC Corp.), 25 May 1982, entire text and fig. 2 (Family: none)

Claims 1 and 5

The invention set forth in claims 1 and 5 does not involve an inventive step in the light of documents 1 to 3 cited in the international search report.

Document 1 discloses a touch panel with a configuration wherein the panel that is touched (hereinafter referred to as the contact panel), which has a resistance film formed on the back surface thereof, and the panel that is not touched (hereinafter referred to as the non-contact panel), which has a resistance film formed on the upper surface thereof, are disposed

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citations and explanations supporting such statement

opposite one another; the electrodes that have been formed on opposite sides of each resistance film are extended to the connection part so as to be electrically connected to the conductors within the through holes that have been formed in the non-contact panel; and the electric signals from the resistance films are extracted via the back surface of the non-contact panel.

Meanwhile, the feature of employing clasping members that clasp the edge parts of the panel instead of through holes that are formed in the panel in order to electrically connect the front surface and the back surface of the panel is well known, as disclosed in documents 2 and 3; therefore, it can be considered to have been easy for a person skilled in the art to conceive of employing clasping members that clasp the non-contact panel instead of through holes that are formed in the non-contact panel in order to electrically connect the front surface and the back surface of the non-contact panel in the invention that is disclosed in document 1.

Furthermore, all of the through holes are formed in the non-contact panel in the invention that is disclosed in document 1; therefore, it would have been easy for a person skilled in the art to conceive of providing all of the clasping members to the non-contact panel when employing clasping members instead of through holes in the invention that is disclosed in document 1.

Claim 2

The invention set forth in claim 2 does not involve an inventive step in the light of documents 1 to 3 cited in the international search report.

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When employing clasping members in the invention that is disclosed in document 1, configuring so that the thickness of each clasping member is between 0.5 and 2.0 times the length of the interval between the contact panel and the non-contact panel is merely a simple design matter that could have been configured by a person skilled in the art.

Claim 3

The invention set forth in claim 3 involves an inventive step in relation to the documents that are cited in the international search report.

The feature wherein notched parts are formed in the sections of the second panel that come into contact with the clasping members is not disclosed in any of the documents that are cited in the international search report, and would not have been obvious to a person skilled in the art.

Claim 4

The invention set forth in claim 4 does not involve an inventive step in the light of documents 1 to 3 cited in the international search report.

When employing clasping members in the invention that is disclosed in document 1, configuring so that a positioning groove is provided to the back surface of the non-contact panel is merely a simple design matter that could have been configured by a person skilled in the art.

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Claim 6

The invention set forth in claim 6 does not involve an inventive step in the light of documents 1 to 3 cited in the international search report.

Document 1 (paragraph [0022]) discloses a configuration for attaching a touch panel to the front surface of a liquid crystal display panel, wherein connection parts are formed in the device to be attached.